

Pre-applications

- Non binding opinion on conceptual proposal

Required submittals for Pre-applications

- Project Abstract (not to exceed one page)
- Map of project area

Information needed in Project Abstract

- General cost information
- General schedule
- General tasks involved in project
- Applicant partners
- Discussion of specific injury
- Discussion of benefits

Examples of abstracts (project summaries):

Upper Willow; Meyers Dam; Watershed Land Acquisition 2001; Little Blackfoot

UPPER WILLOW CREEK PROJECT SUMMARY

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks seeks a Project Development Grant of \$25,000 for design of stream restoration activities on a 13,700 foot reach of Upper Willow Creek, a tributary of Rock Creek near Philipsburg. The project area covers 3 miles of Upper Willow Creek that starts about 4 miles upstream of its confluence with Rock Creek. The Project Development Grant focuses on field data collection to develop a stream re-naturalization design and a wetland enhancement design for this reach of Upper Willow Creek. Long-term, the project's implementation activities focus on stream channel restoration and riparian management. These actions seek to create and enhance fish, wildlife and water quality resources equivalent to those that were injured. Hence, the project would replace injured resources and lost services by enhancing Upper Willow Creek fish populations and habitat and increasing trout recruitment to the Rock Creek fishery. Upper Willow Creek contains genetically pure populations of bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout and is a spawning and rearing tributary for these species in Rock Creek. It also supports populations of non-native rainbow, brook, and brown trout.

The \$25,000 requested in Restoration funds would be used to collect field data necessary for project design and to design the project (i.e. irrigation head structures, bank stabilization features, etc.). Total design costs are \$37,330,

with matching funds of \$12,330. For project implementation, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks intends to seek funding from a number of sources, including possibly from the Natural Resource Damage Program.

MYERS DAM PROJECT SUMMARY

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks seeks a Project Development Grant of \$11,710 for conducting a preliminary study on fluvial geomorphology and stream and land surface data to produce a design to provide fish passage and screening at Meyers dam. Meyers dam is a 3-acre impoundment adjacent to Warm Springs Creek approximately three miles west of Anaconda. A diversion routes the majority of streamflow from the stream channel into the Meyers dam impoundment. Diverted water provides a water supply for Butte-Silver Bow County. Water is diverted into a water house via a two 8' wide sluice gates and then transported to Butte via a pipeline. Excess diverted flow from the impoundment exits over a spillway and enters the channel of Warm Springs Creek downstream. The existing configuration of the diversion results in dewatering of a stream segment, which impedes fish passage upstream, and results in a loss of fish to the water works. The spillway is also impassable for fish moving upstream.

Warm Springs Creek contains populations of native bull, westslope cutthroat, non-native brown and brook trout. Meyers dam restricts access to upstream-moving fish to 70 miles, or 47% of the perennial streams in the upper Warm Springs basin. The project seeks to improve the fish populations of Warm Springs Creek by providing upstream passage and preventing fish from becoming trapped in the water delivery system. Hence, the project would replace injured resources and lost services by enhancing Warm Springs Creek fish populations.

The \$11,710 requested in Restoration funds would be used to scope potential solutions to screening the municipal water intake and to provide fish passage around Meyers dam. Data will need to be collected to produce cost effective designs of fish screening and passage devices. Total design costs are \$30,625, with matching funds of \$18,915. Butte-Silver Bow County, who owns and operates the diversion, is a project partner.

For project implementation, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks intends to seek funding from a number of sources, including possibly from the Natural Resource Damage Program. It is anticipated that federal funding would also be available to fund the future restoration proposal, which the applicant plans to implement in 2004. The applicant hopes to complete the design and a restoration grant proposal by March of 2003.

Watershed Land Acquisition Project Summary

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) holds a purchase option to acquire approximately 32,500 acres of land in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin from the YT Timber Company. The property is located between Anaconda, Mt., and Georgetown Lake and makes up the bulk of the Warm Springs Creek drainage

not already in public ownership. The property has high public values including habitat for native fish (bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout), critical big game winter range, alpine lakes and wetlands.

RMEF applied for a \$6.075 million grant from the Upper Clark Fork River Basin (UCFRB) Restoration Fund in April of 2000 to acquire nearly 9,000 acres of the property for the State of Montana. The UCFRB Advisory Council and initially, the NRD staff, recommended funding the entire \$6.075 million, however, based on financial constraints, the Trustee Council recommended, and the Trustee awarded, \$3.764 million in December, 2000. RMEF conveyed 5,790 acres to the State of Montana in February, 2001. RMEF is now applying for \$2.066 million from the UCFRB to acquire approximately 3,178 acres and complete the State portion of the acquisition. The remaining 23,500 acres is targeted for purchase by the U.S. Forest Service (U.S.F.S.) using Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars. Five million dollars has been appropriated from the LWCF program for 2001 and will be available in the spring of 2001.

The State portion of the acquisition is located in close proximity (less than five miles) to the damaged Anaconda Uplands and Opportunity Ponds. Acquisition of the State portion of the property will replace soil, vegetation and wildlife habitat related services lost in the Upper Clark Fork Basin including services lost in the Anaconda Uplands from smelter emissions and lost in and beneath the Opportunity Ponds from hazardous materials. Acquisition of the Watershed Property by public entities will benefit water quality in Warm Springs Creek, the major tributary of the Upper Clark Fork River and aid in the restoration of the river. Habitat for the endangered bull trout and the westslope cutthroat trout and spawning areas for brown trout will be enhanced or maintained with the Watershed Land Acquisition. A critical linkage for wildlife between the Flint Range and the Pintlar Range will also be protected from development.

The Watershed Land Acquisition project is a partnership between the RMEF, the State of Montana and the U.S.F.S. The first phase of the purchase option was exercised in December of 2000 which required RMEF to borrow \$2 million until the UCFRB Restoration Fund dollars became available and transactional details were worked out. Funding of the acquisition of the remaining land targeted for state ownership will be crucial to exercising the next phase of the option.

Little Blackfoot PDG Project Summary

This proposal involves developing design specifications for renaturalizing a 2.5-mile reach of the Little Blackfoot River located on private ranch lands between the confluences of Telegraph and Dog creeks near Elliston, Montana. The project includes the design of natural habitat improvement structures, stream bank stabilization and revegetation, and livestock control. Preliminary design components include: stabilization of the existing channel; channel lengthening through meander recharge; installation of bank wrap fabric; planting of mature willows, willow sprigs, and woody trees and shrubs; construction of fish habitat structures and pools with overhead cover; and installation of riparian fencing.

Land & Water Consulting performed a detailed assessment of the Little Blackfoot River from the USFS boundary above Elliston to the Clark Fork confluence in 2001. The assessment, sponsored by the Deer Lodge Valley Conservation District, was to establish baseline conditions, identify water quality and aquatic habitat problems and causes, and set restoration priorities. The proposed project area was ranked as the second highest priority for restoration based on severity of problems, restoration feasibility, and potential for recovery (Land & Water Consulting, 2002). The project area presently suffers from the effects of historical floods, past stream channel and stream bank alterations, and livestock over-utilization. Up to 50 percent of the stream banks lacks woody, deep-rooted vegetation, while 30 percent of all stream banks show excessive erosion and instability problems. A high frequency of sediment source areas is responsible for instream sedimentation problems in both pool and riffle habitat types. Channel widths and width-to-depth ratios are excessive (>48ft and >30:1, respectively). Quality of fish habitat declines from upstream to downstream, as a result of declining riparian vegetation, pool frequency, woody debris, shade and cover, and increasing instream sediment deposits. Water quality and stream channel and riparian integrity also decline in a downstream direction throughout the 2.5 mile project area. Nuisance levels of filamentous green algae have been observed in the Little Blackfoot River below the confluence of Mike Renig Gulch, in the central portion of the project area. Noxious weeds are abundant throughout the project area, which negatively influences the health of the riparian area.

This proposal will develop detailed plans for addressing these problems in the entire 2.5-mile section of river (Figure 1). The project design, when implemented, will stabilize stream banks, restore riparian vegetation and riparian wildlife habitat, reduce losses of agricultural land and soils, decrease sediment loading and instream sedimentation, improve water quality, decrease water temperatures, increase production of aquatic insects, and improve fish spawning and rearing habitat in the Little Blackfoot River. The project has the potential to enhance water quality and water use-support for a considerable distance downstream of the project area. The proposed project will also complement the planned restoration of a 2.5 mile section of the Upper Little Blackfoot River (Land & Water Consulting, 2003).